(b) whether there is any cut-off date for registration of ultrasound machines;

(c) till which date registration has been granted to ultrasound clinics; and

(d) the number of genetic clinics fulfilling the requirements under Schedule III, *i.e.* A, B(1), B(2)(b), B(2)(c), B(3), B(4) and C(1) of the PNDT Act, 1994?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misues) Act, 1994 came into force with effect from 1st January, 1996. Every Genetic Counseling Centre, Genetic Laboratory or Genetic Clinic engaged in counseling or conducting pre-natal diagnostic techniques has to apply for its registration under the said Act within 60 days from the date of its commencement.

Registration of bodies is a continuous process as all the bodies, old and new, engaged in counseling or conducting pre-natal diagnostic techniques have to get themselves registered under the Act.

According to reports received from the States/UT Government, 19,612 bodies have so far been registered under the Act. All these clinics are supposed to fulfil the requirements prescribed under the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 and Rules thereunder.

Supreme Court's direction on medical negligence

1849. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently directed the Medical Council of India to submit an affidavit, on the cases of medical negligence, within two weeks;

(b) whether his Ministry has taken any action on the directions of Supreme Court;

(c) if so, the details of the cases of medical negligence and procedure for punishing the erring doctors;

(d) whether Government have set up any Standing Committee to implement the Supreme Court's directives;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (f) The Medical Council of India has filed an affidavit in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India furnishing the various details called for by the court with regard to processing of complaints received against doctors. As informed by Medical Council of India, 125 and 110 cases of complaints related to medical negligence have been received by them in the year 2000-2001 and 2001-02 respectively. As per the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, complaints with regard to professional misconduct can be brought before the appropriate Medical Council for disciplinary action. Upon receipt of any complaint of professional misconduct, the apppropriate Medical Council would hold an enquiry and give opportunity to the registered medical practitioner to be heard in person or by pleader. If the Medical practitioner is found to be guilty of committing professional misconduct the appropriate State Medical Council may award such punishement as deemed. Medical Council of India has set-up a Sub-committee to deliberate on the complaint and give its recommendations necessary or may direct the removal altogether or for a specified period from the register of the name of the deliquent registered medical practitioner. An Ethical Committee consisting of six members exists in the Medical Council of India to deal with the complaints.

Step-motherly treatment to ayurvedic industry

1850. SHRISURESHPACHOURI:

SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ayurvedic industry is getting step-motherly treatment as compared to the Allopathic industry;